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Chief, Security Research Staff

8 June 1953

Chief, Technical Branch

ARMITAGE Conference, 21 May 1953

1. On 21 May 1953, Thursday, between 2:00 and 4:00 PM, an ARMITAGE Conference was held in the SO Conference Room, 2050 I Building. Present at the Conference were [redacted] representing SO; [redacted] representing the Medical Staff; [redacted] representing the Director's Office and OSI; and [redacted] representing TSS.

2. [redacted] opened the Conference by discussing the participation of the Technical Branch of SO in the interrogation of the returning Korean POWs at Valley Forge. [redacted] stated that extreme pressure of public opinion both on the military services and on Congress had interfered with a well worked-out program in connection with the POWs. He stated, however, that this Agency had furnished support in the form of technical equipment to G-2 of the Army who actually handled the returned POWs. [redacted] stated that he had had conferences with G-2 of the Army and representatives of the Surgeon General's Office and that although there had been some discussion as to possible use of sodium amytal and pentothal, this had been ruled out completely by the Surgeon General's Office.

3. [redacted] then pointed out that he had briefed [redacted] of G-2 and representatives of the Surgeon General's Office in very general terms on "Seramin" but since all returns in Valley Forge were held in one ward, the use of this chemical had been ruled out because of the long and obvious period of hangover. [redacted] stated that there was little chance of using the ARMITAGE techniques on the returnees. He stated that after the few days spent at Valley Forge, the men would go on leave for thirty days and return to the nearest Veteran's Hospital where they would be discharged. He stated there was a slight possibility of some "spot" interrogations when certain of the men returned but that would be solely upon the request of G-2 and would probably be too well controlled for advanced ARMITAGE techniques.

4. [redacted] stated that, in general, the interrogations had turned up only five returnees who might be classified as "hardcore" and that G-2 would probably handle these cases on a somewhat different basis although the details have not been worked out at this time.

5. A general discussion followed concerning the interrogation of the returnees and it was agreed that the interrogations would not probably be too effective since there were too many handicaps to use the ARTICOM techniques or even handle extensive interrogations in the conventional way.

6. [redacted] then stated that [redacted] had participated in the debriefing of [redacted], a returnee from Korea who had been picked up in the early days of the war, and stated there were a number of suspicions regarding [redacted] and that [redacted] would follow the case.

7. [redacted] explained that the projects at [redacted] and [redacted] had been delayed because of the full investigations on the persons involved. In checking the [redacted] personnel, it was found that one person was the subject of an OMI investigation and until this is cleared up our project could not be started. [redacted] explained that we also ran into problems at the [redacted] in connection with key personnel for the ARTICOM project proposed there.

8. [redacted] then discussed the conferences that [redacted] and himself had attended with [redacted] at the National Institute of Health at Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Allen pointed out that [redacted] were extremely co-operative and promised support both in research and actual processing of crude materials as necessary. [redacted] stated that the contacting of [redacted] like [redacted] was part of the expansion of the ARTICOM program and [redacted] and to insure that all possible avenues and fields were being explored in this connection.

10. Following this, [redacted] discussed a paper concerning the use of drugs against key U.S. officials overseas that had been prepared for delivery by the Director to the Psychological Strategy Board. This paper was prepared by [redacted], Dr. Gottlieb and [redacted], and had been delivered to the Director and, as far as [redacted] knew, it had been given to the Psychological Strategy Board.

11. Following this, [redacted] stated he had talked with [redacted] of DDP concerning a representative to attend all ARTICHOKE Conferences. [redacted] stated that this was under consideration and, in the immediate future, DDP would be represented at all conferences.

12. [redacted] then brought up the subject of the Sidetone Delay device and he and [redacted] discussed the recent conferences between representatives of ONR, [redacted] of Chicago and [redacted] and [redacted] of this Agency. [redacted] stated, in the immediate future, [redacted] was bringing the completed Sidetone Delay device with all related material to Washington which would, after routine processing by ONR, then be delivered to this Agency. [redacted] then stated that [redacted] and [redacted] groups would study the device and then turn it over to TSS for their study to see if further investigation and research is warranted.

13. There was a general discussion by all hands on possible use of supersonics in connection with various ARTICHOKE problems. [redacted] pointed out that research is now being carried out in this direction and, in the immediate future, some specifically directed research would be held in connection with the affects of super or ultra-sonic sound on human beings. [redacted] stated that this matter is waiting upon certain security clearances for development.

[redacted]

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15. Following this, [REDACTED] stated that he had recently received information via G-2 that an East German scientist had succeeded in developing a new virus or mutation of a virus which [REDACTED] regarded as very important if true. [REDACTED] stated that he had very little detail in this connection but his information indicated that the virus was possible of the anthrax type.

16. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM after Thursday, 18 June 1953, had been selected as the time of the next meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would be held as usual at 2:00 PM in the SO Conference Room.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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